

PET DENTAL CARE CHECKLIST

Brush early and often

Your pet doesn't have to have bad breath. Just like in humans, brushing plays a significant role in preventing dental issues. Aim to brush your pet's teeth every day, or at least multiple times per week.

Some pets have an aversion to brushing or agitation in their mouths. To get ahead of this, start when the animal is young, using the toothbrush as a toy or a game. With some extra patience, this can work with older pets as well.

Consider adding a dog- or cat-specific toothpaste to acclimate them to the taste and texture. Don't worry about brushing at this stage; focus on giving the animal a positive experience with the toothbrush. Slowly build up to full brushing over time.

Inspect

Check your pet's mouth regularly – looking for any redness or swelling in the gums and foreign objects, like sticks, pieces of toys or string that can get lodged between teeth. Additionally, keep an eye on any plaque buildup on their teeth. This practice can help you to identify issues early.

Know the signs of trouble

Notice if your pet is exhibiting behavior or symptoms such as drooling, bad breath or your pet stops eating. This could be a sign of an issue. Consult with your veterinarian if the behavior persists.

Use the tools available to you

First, be sure to provide your pet with a balanced diet and fresh water. Some kibbles and pet food are specifically designed to remove plaque and tartar.

Additionally, dental chews and treats can help reduce plaque buildup and keep your pet's mouth healthy. Enzymatic treatments for water can also be helpful. Avoid extremely hard chews such as bones or antlers as these can fracture teeth.

Get scheduled

In addition to regular at-home care, schedule regular professional dental cleanings with your veterinarian. Cleanings are essential to remove tartar and plaque that home brushing can't address.

Aim for a dental check-up once a year, during which the vet can assess your pet's oral health and perform necessary cleanings. Always consult your veterinarian with questions and concerns about your pet's health.

